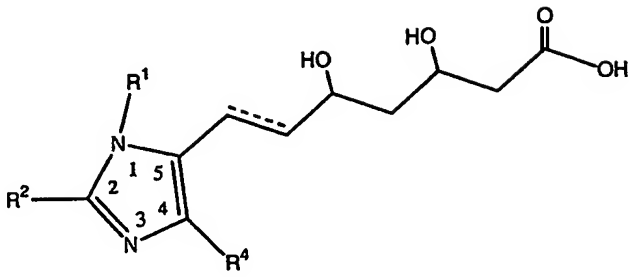
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound having a Formula I,



Formula I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, stereoisomer or prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the prodrug, wherein:

---------- is a bond or is absent;

R^1 is H; C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl;

R^2 is H; halogen; C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, optionally substituted; aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl, optionally substituted; $R^6R^7NS(O)_2$-; $R^8S(O)_n$-; -$(CH_2)_nCOR'$; -$(CH_2)_nNR^6R^7$; -$(CH_2)_nCOOR'$; or $R^6R^7NC(O)$-;

R^6 and R^7 are each independently H; aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl, optionally substituted with halogen, OR', $(CH_2)_nCOOR'$, $(CH_2)_nCONR'R''$, $(CH_2)_nSO_2R'$ or CN;

C_1-C_{10} alkyl, optionally substituted; $(CH_2)_nCOR'$; $(CH_2)_nCOOR'$; $(CH_2)_nCONR'R''$ or $(CH_2)_nSO_2R'$; or

N, R^6 and R^7 taken together form a 4-11 member ring optionally containing up to two heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, said ring being optionally substituted;

R^4 is C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, optionally substituted; H; halo; aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted;

R^8 is aryl, aralkyl, alkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl, optionally substituted;

R' and R" are each independently H, C_1-C_{12} alkyl, aryl or aralkyl, optionally substituted; and

n is 0-2.

2. A compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or composition thereof wherein R^1 is C_{1-3} alkyl.

3. A compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or composition thereof wherein R^2 is $R^6R^7NS(O)_2$- or $R^6R^7NC(O)$-.

4. A compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or composition thereof wherein R^2 is $-(CH_2)_nNR^6R^7$.

5. A compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or composition thereof wherein R^4 is H; lower alkyl, phenyl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted.

6. A compound of the Formula I of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of : (3R,5R)-7-[2-benzylcarbamoyl-5-(3,4-difluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5- dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;
(3R,5R)-7-[2-benzylcarbamoyl-3-propyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;
(3R,5R)-7-[2-benzylcarbamoyl-3-isobutyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;
(3R,5R)-7-[2-benzylcarbamoyl-3-ethyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;
(3R,5R)-7-[2-benzylcarbamoyl-3-isopropyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;
(3R,5R)-7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-phenethylcarbamoyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;

(3R,5R)-7-[2-(4-fluoro-benzylcarbamoyl)-3-propyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;
(3R,5R)-7-[2-phenylcarbamoyl-3-propyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, amides and esters thereof.

7. A compound of the Formula I of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of: (3R,5R)-7-[2-(4-fluoro-benzylcarbamoyl)-5-(4-fluoro-3-methyl-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;
(3R,5R)-7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-phenylmethanesulfonyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;
(3R,5R)-7-(2-benzylcarbamoyl-3-isopropyl-5-pyridin-3-yl-3H-midazol-4-yl)-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid; (3R,5S)-7-(2-Benzylcarbamoyl-5-bromo-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazole-4-yl)-3,5-dihydroxy-hept-6-enoic acid; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, amides and esters thereof.

8. A compound of the Formula I of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
(3R,5R)-3,5-Dihydroxy-7-[3-isopropyl-5-phenyl-2-((R)-1-phenyl-ethylcarbamoyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-heptanoic acid;
(3R,5R)-3,5-Dihydroxy-7-[3-isopropyl-5-phenyl-2-((S)-1-phenyl-ethylcarbamoyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-heptanoic acid;
7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-(methanesulfonyl-methyl-amino)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-heptanoic acid;
7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-methanesulfonylamino-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-(methyl-phenylmethanesulfonyl-amino)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-phenylmethanesulfonylamino-3H-midazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[2-benzenesulfonylamino-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;

7-[2-(benzenesulfonyl-methyl-amino)-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[2-(acetyl-methyl-amino)-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[2-acetylamino-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[2-(acetyl-benzyl-amino)-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[2-(benzoyl-methyl-amino)-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[2-benzoylamino-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-phenylacetylamino-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-(methyl-phenylacetyl-amino)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[2-(benzyl-methanesulfonyl-amino)-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-methylsulfamoyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[2-benzylsulfamoyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid;
7-[5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-phenylsulfamoyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid; and
(3R,5R)-7-{5-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-isopropyl-2-[(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)-carbamoyl]-3H-imidazol-4-yl}-3,5-dihydroxy- heptanoic acid; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, amides and esters thereof.

9. A stereoisomer of a compound of the Formula I as defined in any one of claims 1-8 respectively, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or composition thereof, said stereoisomer selected from a (3R, 5R)- isomer and a (3R, 5S)- isomer.

10. A stereoisomer of a compound of the Formula I as defined in any one of claims 1-8 respectively, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or composition thereof said stereoisomer selected from a (3S, 5R)- isomer and a (3S, 5S)- isomer.

11. The use of a compound of the Formula I as defined in any one of claims 1-10 respectively, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or composition thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament to treat a disease for which an HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor is indicated.

12. A combination of a compound of Formula I, as defined in any one of claims 1-10 respectively, and another pharmaceutically active agent.

13. The combination of claim 12 wherein the other pharmaceutically active agent is a CTEP inhibitor, a PPAR-activator, an MTP/Apo B secretion inhibitor, a cholesterol absorption inhibitor, a cholesterol synthesis inhibitor, a fibrate, niacin, an ion-exchange resin, an antioxidant, an ACAT inhibitor, a bile sequestrant, an anti-hypertensive agent, or an acetylcholine esterase inhibitor.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I as defined in any one of claims 1-10, or a combination as defined in any one of claims 12-13 respectively; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or vehicle.

15. The use of a compound of Formula I as defined in any one of claims 1-10, a combination as defined in any one of claims 12-13, or a composition as defined in claim 14, for the manufacture of a medicament to treat atherosclerosis.